

D-198
Grace United Methodist Church
Cambridge
1882-83, and later
Private

Standing prominently on the corner of Race and Muir streets in central Cambridge is the Grace United Methodist Church, a beautifully detailed Gothic Revival building erected in Port Deposit granite and accented with red sandstone, brick, and molded terra cotta. Designed by local architect J. Benjamin Brown, the cruciform-shaped sanctuary is dominated by a two-story entrance and bell tower on its northeast corner. The tower, punctuated with Gothic arched openings framed in red sandstone, is capped by a broach spire of patterned slate. Built in 1882-84, the main building has been expanded over the years with additions to the rear that house Sunday Schools and administrative offices. The additions, also executed in Gothic style, were conceived and built in sympathy to the architect's original design. Along with Christ Episcopal Church (D-140), Grace stands out as one of the best examples of late 19th-century Gothic Revival design on the lower Eastern Shore.

The congregation of Grace United Methodist Church owes its origins to the internal strife experienced in the Methodist Episcopal Church nationwide during the decades leading up to the Civil War. During the mid 1840s, a schism developed within the national Methodist Church around the issue of institutionalized slavery, and as the years progressed heated differences were often aired in local congregations. Reverend Adam Wallace, while serving the Eastern Shore congregations as a circuit rider, wrote of

his experiences during the 1840s and 1850s. On his proposed visit to the Zion M. E. Church in Cambridge he related:

In getting round to the Dorchester section of my work, I felt the heaviest end of the cross. Its leading Methodists I knew were extremely sensitive about 'northern' and 'southern' affinities. Some were outspoken opponents of the general government, and allies of the South in the desperate alternative of dissolving the Union...The pastor at Cambridge was a very quiet, conservative brother. He knew of 40 to 50 of his own members who were disaffected toward the old flag and old church, but tried conciliatory measures to put off the day of their severance from us, to organize a southern church.

A fiery editor of the town, announcing my appointment on the ensuing Sabbath, took it upon himself to call in all loyal people to be present, and promised the Presiding Elder would make the ears of the secessionists tingle by a proper characterization of Southern sympathizer and rebels, and the iniquity of their designs. On reaching Cambridge, I saw the flaming notice, and afterwards the crowd it brought together, and I was embarrassed. It was no part of my business to pitch into the 'rebels' or assume there were any, but preach as best I could the old doctrines of grace and salvation. There were many of my former friends, now accused of untrue leanings toward the Confederacy, and there also were the editor and his constituency—all wondering what was about to happen. It was a grand chance to make the one party mad, and awaken the other a disposition to 'hurrah' for the star-spangled banner. I got through the ordeal by exhorting each and all to fear God, work righteousness and not 'make shipwreck of faith and a good conscience,' whatever might be the perturbations of the period.

The congregants of the Zion M. E. Church managed to hold together until 1865, when sectional strife split the congregation, and a dissenting group formed the southern, Grace M. E. Church membership. Evidently the members initially rented the old Presbyterian church, later moving to the town hall. The location of the church is indicated on the Cambridge city map published in the 1877 atlas printed by Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson. During the early 1880s, the congregants decided to finance a new cathedral sized building on the prominent corner of Race and Muir, most likely in an attempt to compete with the Zion congregation then rebuilding a Gothic church of its own a city block away. On March 18, 1882, the *Cambridge News* reported:

The work of removing the buildings from the church lot, corner of Race and Muir streets, has been commenced. The new church will be commenced about the 1st of May and it is said will cost \$12,000.

Due to the high cost of the construction project, it took the congregation ten years to pay down the debt. On November 5, 1892, a rededication of the newly paid off property was held. When the new church was erected on this corner, it was centered in a middle of a sizable residential district, but over time, the dwellings were torn down as the city's commercial district moved south along Race Street.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-198

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Grace M. E. Church South
other Grace United Methodist Church

2. Location

street and number 501 Race Street not for publication
city, town Cambridge vicinity
county Dorchester

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Grace United Methodist Church
street and number 501 Race Street telephone
city, town Cambridge state MD zip code 21613

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber folio
city, town Cambridge tax map 301 tax parcel 4533 tax ID number 7-116799

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-198

Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Grace M. E. Church, South, and since the mid twentieth century as the Grace United Methodist Church, stands at 501 Race Street at its intersection with Muir Street. The expansive Gothic Revival stone structure, initially built in 1882-83 and expanded in two later building programs during the first quarter of the twentieth century, started out as a cruciform structure with a corner entrance and bell tower topped by a broach spire on its northeast corner. Built of Port Deposit "granite" with brick and terra cotta highlights, the original building extends to the west and south with a large Sunday School and administrative wings also executed in stone in the Gothic taste. The principal elevation faces east on Race Street, and a secondary entrance is located on Muir Street.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Built in 1882-83 following designs by J. Benjamin Brown, the original Grace M. E. Church South, located at the corner of Race and Muir streets, is a large cruciform shaped Gothic structure assembled in Port Deposit "granite" and accented with brick, red sandstone and terra cotta accents. The steeply pitched gable roofs and the broach spire are sheathed in slate. Attached to the back of the original church is a large Sunday School and administrative wing erected in at least two building programs during the first decades of the twentieth century. Both sections are built in rusticated stone. The west end addition is covered by a gable roof sheathed in patterned slate, whereas the section to the southwest is two-stories and is covered by a flat roof behind a parapet wall.

The east (main) elevation is an asymmetrical façade with a center gable-front wall flanked to the south by a hipped roof secondary entrance tucked into the corner of the cross-shaped plan, and on the northeast by the two-story entrance and bell tower capped by an octagonal broach spire. At the base of the gable-front elevation is a large datestone inscribed "Grace Methodist Church, A.D. 1882." The gabled elevation is defined by a large round window of wood tracery and colored glass bordered in cut reddish sandstone border of keyblocks. Stretching across the width of the elevation below and above the round window are decorative brick bands accented with molded terra cotta blocks on the outer corners. The lower section of wall surface is pierced by four, small sized Gothic arched windows of colored glass and fitted with pointed red sandstone arches, and the windows are interconnected as well with decorative horizontal brick bands which extend from corner to corner. The outer corners of the first story wall are defined by stone buttresses capped with red sandstone weatherings. The uppermost part of the gable end is decorated with a tripartite Gothic window trimmed with a center, red sandstone pointed arch and horizontal brick bands below. The edge of the gable end roof is trimmed with a molded bargeboard. Fixed atop the peak of the cruciform shaped roof is a pyramidal roofed vent in the shape of a small tower

The entrance and bell tower to the northeast is defined by a Gothic arched double door entrance trimmed with a red sandstone arch and brick banding at the base of the arch which continues around to

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-198

Name Grace M. E. Church South
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

the north side of the tower. The upper levels of the tower are accented further with horizontal brick banding as well as a red sandstone weathering that marks the point where the tower narrows slightly. Above the red sandstone weathering is a large pointed arch vent to the belfry, and it is framed by a red sandstone pointed arch, sill and adjacent brick banding. Above the belfry opening is a wide band of decorative brickwork on top of which the broach spire rises. The four-sided base of the tower tapers into an octagonal form, and the four principal sides are marked by gable roofed vents enriched with a decorative pointed arch vent in its face. The pattern slate covering of the spire is covered on its edges with metal caps that rise to the point of the spire which has a pointed cap.

To the south of the gable front elevation is a single-story hip roofed side entrance featuring a set of double doors, and a red sandstone arch. The outer corners of the entry featured stone buttresses capped by red sandstone weatherings.

The south elevation of the cruciform plan is defined by a pointed arch sanctuary window enhanced with a red sandstone arch, and three lower windows of Gothic design filled with colored glass and pointed sandstone arches. The three lower windows are flanked to each side by slightly larger pointed arch window, and the uppermost gable end is pierced by a tripartite series of small windows, the center one being topped by a pointed arch of red sandstone.

The north elevation of the original cruciform structure is finished in a similar fashion to the east wall. The gable end elevation to the north leg of the cruciform plan is pierced by a large pointed arch colored glass window trimmed with a red sandstone arch and horizontal decorative brick bands. Beneath a red sandstone window sill is a band of terra cotta molded blocks. The width of the sanctuary window is defined by a slight recess in the stone wall surface, which is pierced on the first floor by three pointed arch windows fitted with red sandstone pointed arches, and flanking the recessed wall surface are slightly larger pointed arch windows also trimmed in red sandstone and interconnected with the center three windows in decorative brick bands. The northwest corner of the sanctuary wall is marked by a corner buttress with a red sandstone weathering. The north face of the entrance and bell tower is defined by pointed arch openings that are also trimmed with red sandstone with inter-related decorative brick bands.

The north elevation extends westward with a large early twentieth century brownish sandstone addition of rusticated finish. Like the original church, it too is accented with red sandstone arches and sills as well as horizontal brick banding. The addition is three bays across with each bay defined by a pointed arch window opening. The upper wall surface is pierced by a tripartite window design with a pointed arch center opening. The gable end is flush and finished with a molded bargeboard. Piercing the gable end is a brick stove chimney. The roof is covered in slate. Fixed between the addition and

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-198

Name Grace M. E. Church South

Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 2

1882 church structure is a secondary side entrance contained in a Gothic arched opening trimmed with a red sandstone arch.

The west side of the initial 1882 building is covered by the rear Sunday School wing, which was also built in granite and pierced by pointed arch windows, although the red sandstone arches were not used. The east side elevation to the Sunday School wing is marked by a double door entrance and transom fitted under a pointed arch of granite. Fixed above it is a double window unit with a pointed arch of stone as well. The top of the two-story wall is finished with a stone parapet.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-198

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder J. Benjamin Brown, Architect

Construction dates 1882-83

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Standing prominently on the corner of Race and Muir Streets in central Cambridge is the Grace United Methodist Church, a beautifully detailed Gothic Revival building erected in Port Deposit granite and accented with red sandstone, brick and molded terra cotta. Designed by local architect J. Benjamin Brown, the cruciform-shaped sanctuary is dominated by a two-story entrance and bell tower on its northeast corner. The tower, punctuated with Gothic arched openings framed in red sandstone, is capped by a broach spire of patterned slate. Built in 1882-83, the main sanctuary has been expanded over the years with additions to the rear to house administrative offices and a large Sunday School, and the additions were executed in sensitive ways that honored the architect's original design. Along with Christ Episcopal Church (D-140), Grace stands out as one of the best examples of 19th-century Gothic Revival design on the lower Eastern Shore.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The congregation of Grace United Methodist Church owes its origins to the internal strife experienced in the Methodist Episcopal Church nationwide during the decades leading up to the Civil War. During the mid 1840s a schism developed within the national Methodist church around the issue of institutionalized slavery, and as the years progressed heated differences were often heard in local congregations. Reverend Adam Wallace, while serving Eastern Shore congregations as a circuit rider, commented on this trials at the Zion M. E. Church :

In getting round to the Dorchester section of my work, I felt the heaviest end of the cross. Its leading Methodists I knew were extremely sensitive about 'northern' and 'southern' affinities. Some were outspoken opponents of the general government, and allies of the South in the desperate alternative of dissolving the Union...The pastor at Cambridge was a very quiet, conservative brother. He knew of 40 to 50 of his own members who were disaffected toward the old flag and old church, but tried conciliatory measures to put off the day of their severance from us, to organize a southern church.

A fiery editor of the town, announcing my appointment on the ensuing Sabbath, took it upon himself to call in all loyal people to be present, and promised the Presiding Elder would make the ears of the secessionists tingle by a proper characterization of Southern sympathies and rebels, and the iniquity of

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-198

Name Grace M. E. Church, South
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

their designs. On reaching Cambridge, I saw the flaming notice, and afterwards the crowd it brought together, and I was embarrassed. It was no part of my business to pitch into the 'rebels' or assume there were any, but preach as best I could the old doctrines of grace and salvation. There were many of my former friends, now accused of untrue leanings toward the Confederacy, and there also were the editor and his constituency—all wondering what was about to happen. It was a grand chance to make the one party mad, and awaken in the other a disposition to 'hurrah' for the star-spangled banner. I got through the ordeal by exhorting each and all to fear God, work righteousness and not 'make shipwreck of faith and a good conscience,' whatever might be the perturbations of the period.¹

The congregants of the Zion M. E. Church managed to hold together until 1865, when sectional strife split the congregation, and a dissenting group formed the southern Grace M. E. Church congregation. Evidently the members initially rented the old Presbyterian church, later moving to the town hall.² The location of the church is indicated on the Cambridge city map of 1877 on the east side of Race Street below its intersection with Muir.³ During the early 1880s it was decided to finance a new cathedral sized building on the prominent corner of Race and Muir, most likely in an attempt to compete with the Zion congregation then rebuilding its own church a city block away. On March 18, 1882, the *Cambridge News* announced:

The work of removing the buildings from the church lot, corner of Race and Muir streets, has been commenced. The new church will be commenced about the 1st of May and it is said will cost \$12,000.⁴

Due to the high cost of the construction project, it took the congregation ten years to pay down the debt. On November 5, 1892, a rededication of the newly paid off property was held.⁵

¹ Joseph F. DiPaolo, *My Business Was to Fight the Devil: Recollections of Rev. Adam Wallace, Peninsula Circuit Rider, 1847-1865*, Tapestry Press, Acton, Massachusetts, 1998, pp. 253-54.

² E.C. Hallman, *Garden of Methodism*, Peninsula Annual Conference, 1945.

³ John L. Graham, *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*. Wicomico Bicentennial Committee, 1976, p. 77.

⁴ *The Cambridge News*, 18 March 1882.

⁵ *Democrat & News*, 5 November 1892.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-198

Name Grace M. E. Church, South
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

DiPaolo, Joseph F. *My Business Was to Fight the Devil: Recollections of Reverend Adam Wallace, Peninsula Circuit Rider, 1847-1865*. Tapestry Press: Acton, Massachusetts, 1998, pp. 253-54.

Incident at Cambridge

"In getting round to the Dorchester section of my work, I felt the heaviest end of the cross. Its leading Methodists I knew were extremely sensitive about "northern" and "southern" affinities. Some were outspoken opponents of the general government, and allies of the South in the desperate alternative of dissolving the Union.

The pastor at Cambridge was a very quiet, conservative brother. He knew of 40 or 50 of his own members who were disaffected toward the old flag and the old church, but tried conciliatory measures to put off the day of their severance from us, to organize a southern church.

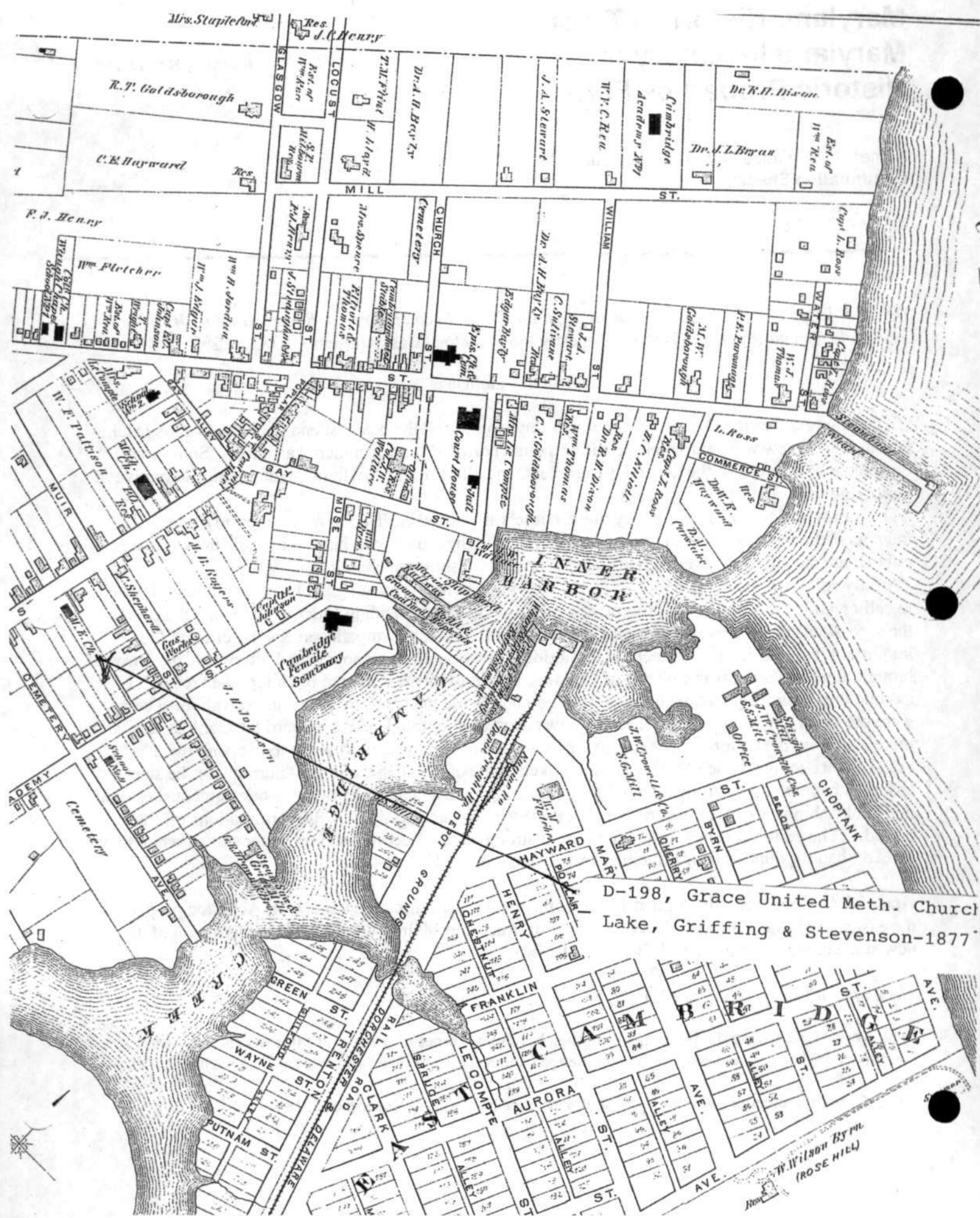
A fiery editor of the town, announcing my appointment on the ensuing Sabbath, took it upon himself to call on all loyal people to be present, and promised that the Presiding Elder would make the ears of the secessionists tingle by a proper characterization of Southern sympathizers and rebels, and the iniquity of their designs. On reaching Cambridge, I saw the flaming notice, and afterwards the crowd it brought together, and I was embarrassed. It was no part of my business to pitch into the "rebels", or assume there were any, but I preached as best as I could the old doctrines of grace and salvation. There were present many of my former friends, now accused of untrue leanings toward the Confederacy, and there also were the editor and his constituency—all wondering what was about to happen. It was a grand chance to make one party mad, and awaken in the other a disposition to "hurrah" for the star-spangled banner. I got through the order by exhorting each and all to fear God, work righteousness and not "make shipwreck of faith and a good conscience," whatever might be the perturbations of the period....The editor in his next issue said I put it strong on the "secesh," and the latter smiled while they agreed I had expounded their principals exactly, and hit the Unionists hard."

Grace M. E. Church South founded 1863 in divisional strife during the Civil War. Acquired property on the east side of Race Street. Moved to corner of Race and Muir streets with the construction of the new stone church, designed by J. Benjamin Brown

The Cambridge News, March 18, 1882

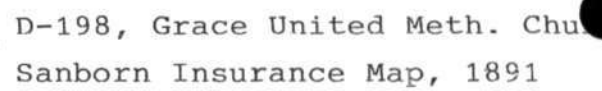
"The work of removing the buildings from the church lot, corner of Race and Muir streets, has been commenced. The new church will be commenced about the 1st of May and it is said will cost \$12,000."

Grace Church dedication with building debt paid after eight years, November 5, 1892

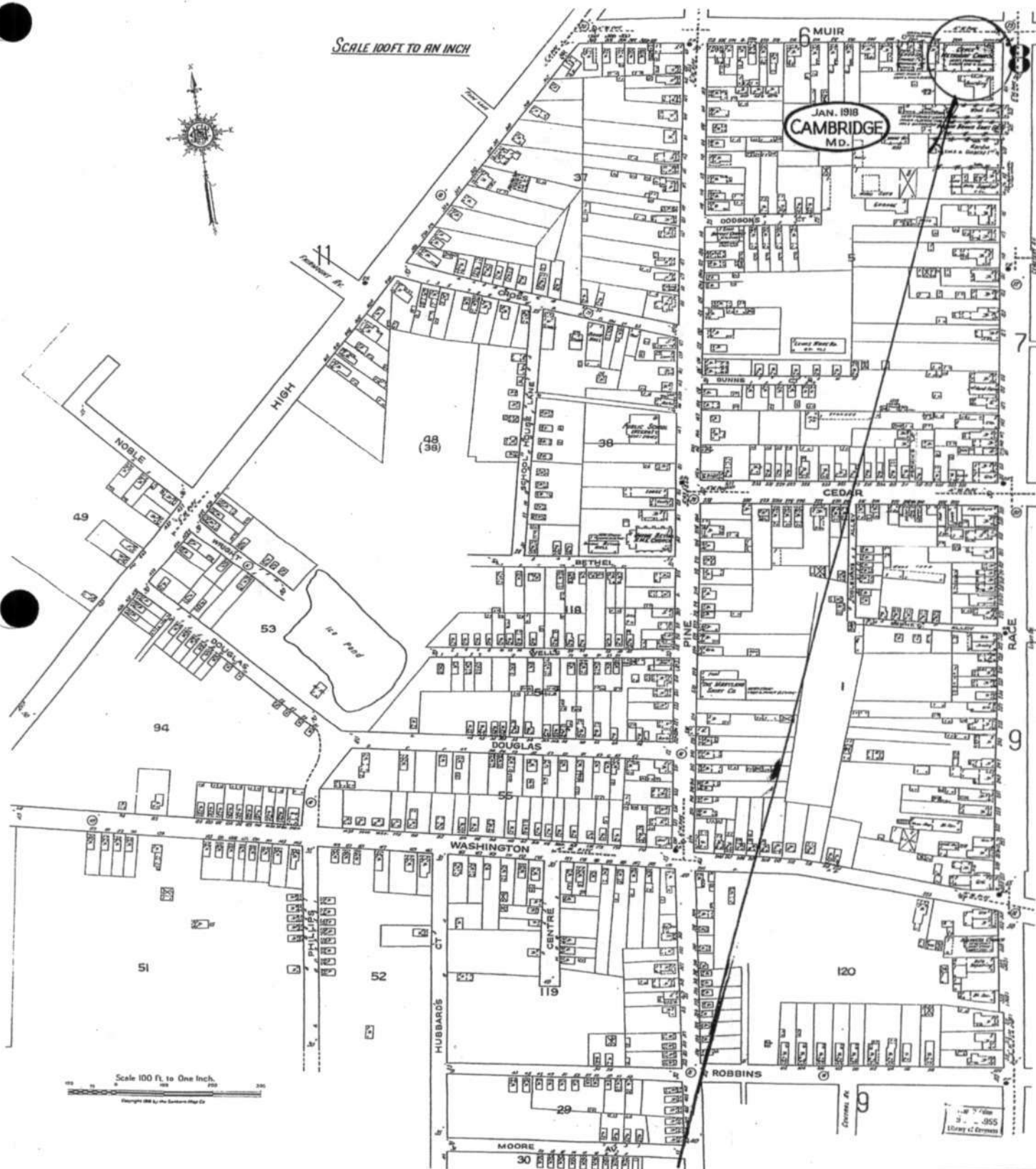


D-198, Grace United Meth. Church
Lake, Griffing & Stevenson-1877

W. Wilson Bym
(ROSE HILL)

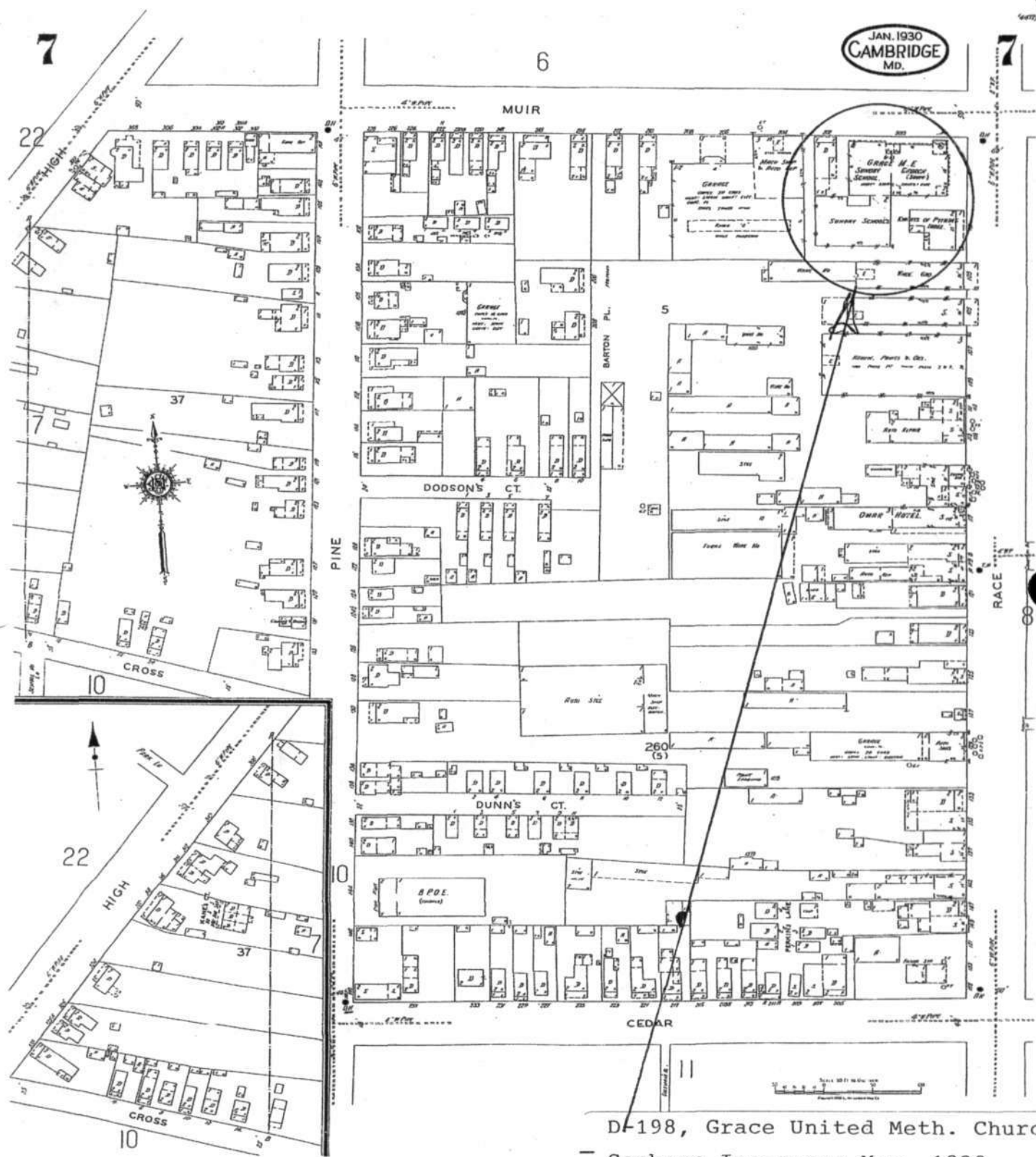


SCALE 100 FT TO AN INCH



D-198, Grace United Meth. Church
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1901

JAN. 1930
CAMBRIDGE
MD.



D-198, Grace United Meth. Church
- Sanborn Insurance Map, 1930

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-198

DiPaolo, Joseph F. *"My Business Was to Fight the Devil: Recollections of Rev. Adam Wallace, Peninsula Circuit Rider, 1847-1865"*, Tapestry Press: Acton, Massachusetts, 1998.

E. C. Hallman, *Garden of Methodism*, Peninsular Methodist Conference, 1945.

The Cambridge Chronicle, various issues, Dorchester County Public Library Microfilm Collection.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 5,510 square feet

Acreage of historical setting 5,510 square feet

Quadrangle name Cambridge, MD

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	2/25/2010
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

TALBOT CO
DORCHESTER CO

Light

Hambrooks
Bar

Slagle 3

Boat
Ramp

Radio
Tower
(WCEN)
Great Marsh
Point

Sandy Hill
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Middle
Sch

Glasgow
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SOMERSET
AVE

GLASGOW
AVE

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JENKINS
CREEK

ROAD

Greenlawn
Cem

BM 12

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Maces Lane

Bethel
Cem

CAMBRIDGE

Long Wharf
Park

BM 5

Tidal
Sta

Boat
Ramps

R Tr

WT

CH

PO

BM 20

R Tr

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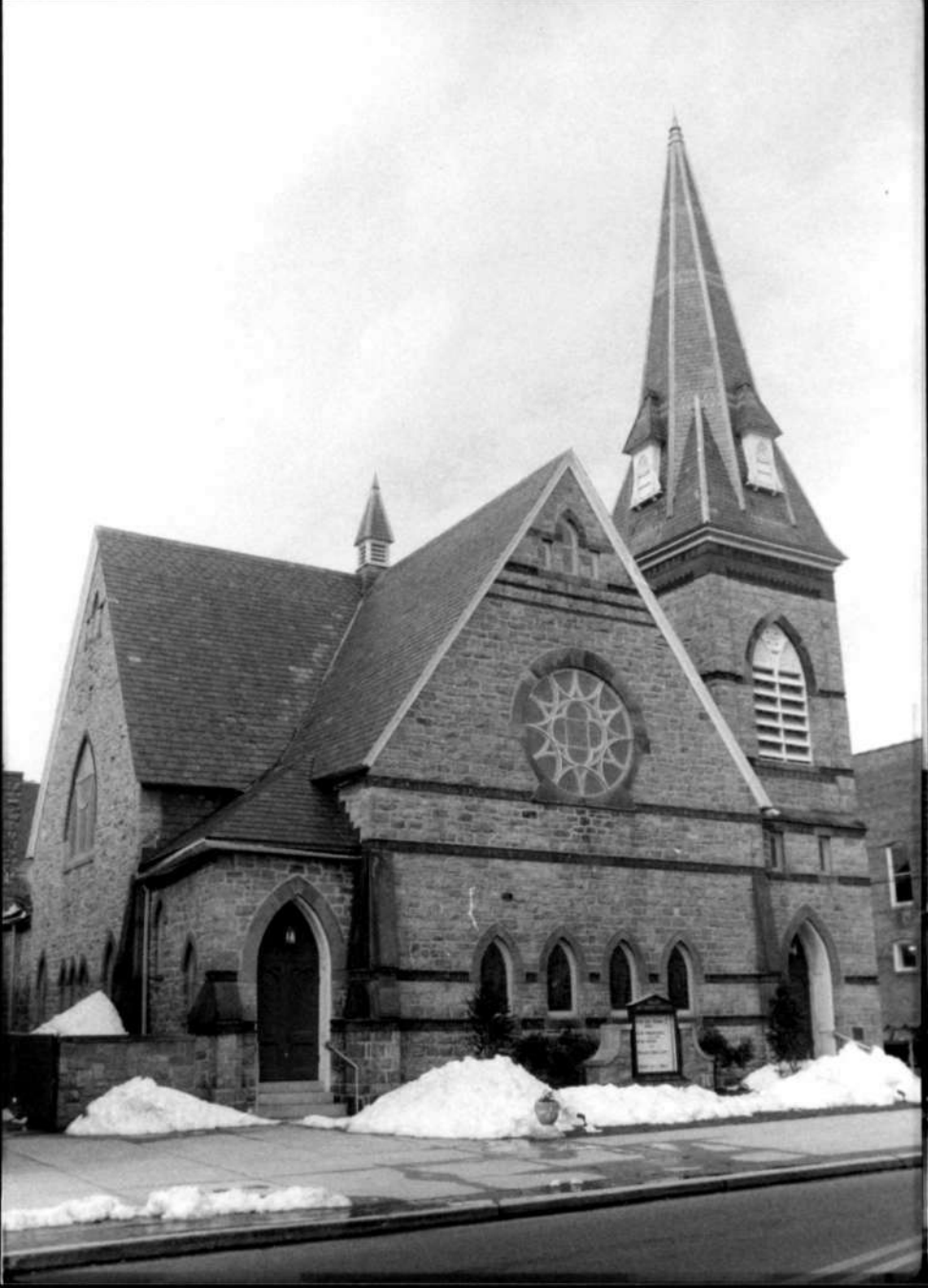
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D-198, Grace United Meth. Church
Cambridge, MD Quadrangle



D-199

GRACE M. E. CHURCH SOUND
CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER
CR., MD.

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

2.2010, PAUL B. TOWART,

PITUITARY ADENOMA

NET./MD. INST. TRUST

1 of 4



D-198

GRACE M. E. Church Source
CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER
Co. MD.

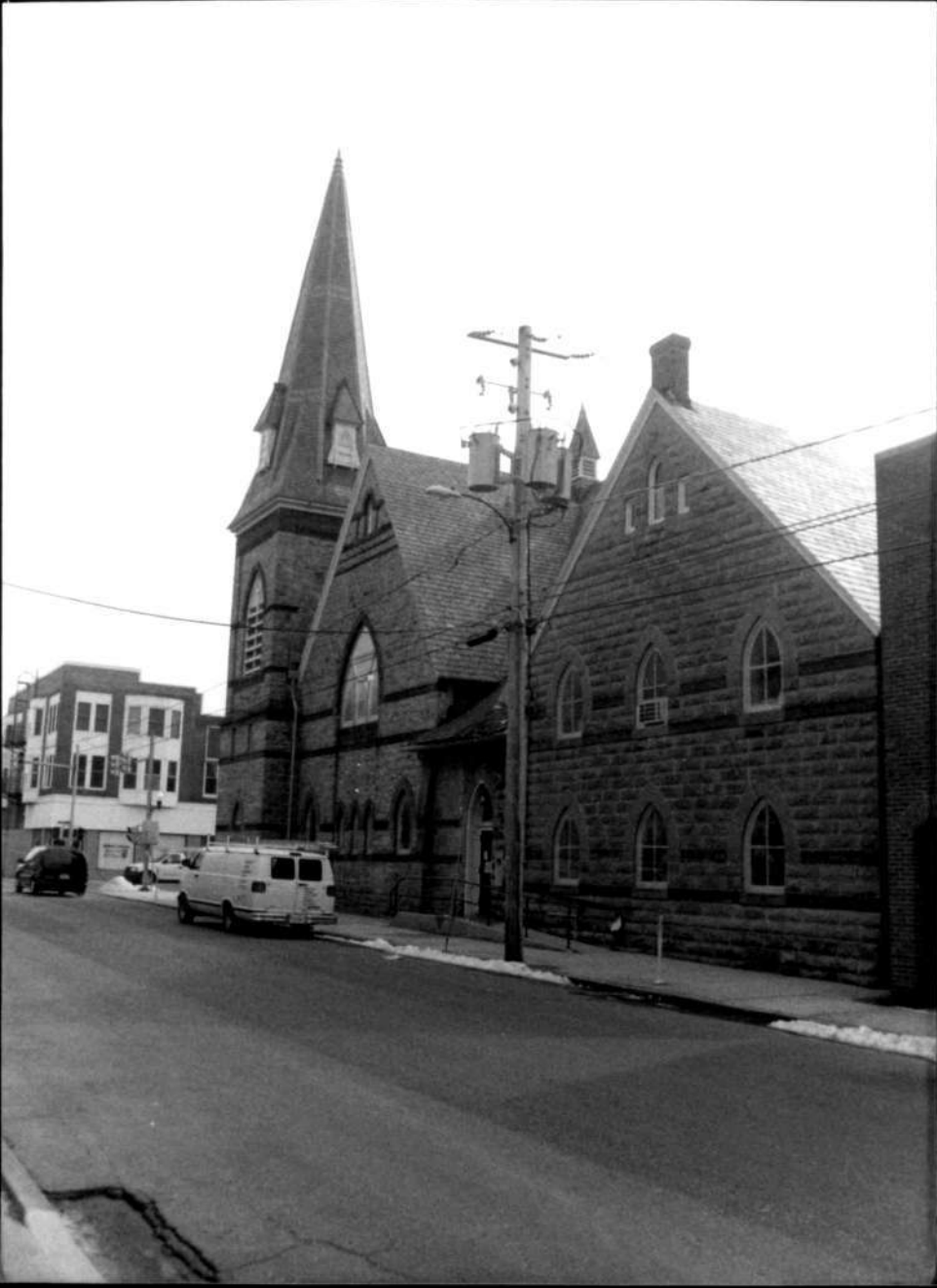
NORTHEAST ELEVATION

2. 2010, PAUL B. TOWLER

PITTSBURGH

WEL. / MID. 175T. TRUSF

2 of 5



D. 198

GRATE M. E. CITIZEN SUMMIT
CAMBRIDGE, DOCKERTON
CO. MD.

NORTHWEST ELEV.

2. 2010, PAUL B. TOWANT,
PITTV.

WET. / MD. HIST. TRUST

3. 1. 5



A black and white photograph of a rectangular stone marker. The marker is made of a dark, possibly granite or slate, material. It is positioned against a rough, light-colored stone wall. The top of the marker is slightly irregular and shows some weathering. The text on the marker is carved in a serif font. The first line reads "GRACE", the second line "METHODIST", and the third line "CHURCH". Below these, on the right side, is the number "882". The marker is set in a patch of ground with some low-lying plants and a small pile of white material (possibly snow or debris) to its left. The overall scene is outdoors, likely in a cemetery or church grounds.

GRACE
METHODIST
CHURCH
No. 882

D. 198

GRACE M. E. CHURCH SOUTHER
CAMBRIDGE DIRECTOR TEN C., MD.

DATES 1982 - 1982

2. 2010, PAUL B. TOWN, AITON,
NEZ. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

4 of 5



D-199

GRACE M. E. CHURCH SUITE
CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER Co. MD.
TOWER WINDOW DETAIL

2.2010, PAUL B. THOMAS, PITTIV.
WED. JUN 11 11:55. TRUSS

5 of 5

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

1001984608

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Grace Methodist Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

501 Race Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Dorchester

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☒ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Vestry of Grace Methodist Church

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dorchester County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

206 High Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Maryland 21613

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

D-198

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Grace Methodist Church is a Gothic Revival style church, built of stone with slate roofs. Is is a cruciform plan, with the entrance through a tower in the northeast corner. Beltcourses of red brick and ornamental terracotta blocks add contrast to the exterior. On the east gable wall of the nave is a large circular stained glass window with wood tracery and below this is a series of four small rectangular stained glass windows. There are pointed arches above these latter windows. An addition to the rear of the church follows the Gothic Revival style of the original portion.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1881

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

J. Benjamin Brown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The architect who designed Grace Church was J. Benjamin Brown, and the church is still in possession of his original architectural drawings of the building.

Although Grace Church is a handsome example of Victorian Gothic architecture, the attractiveness of the church is diminished by its setting in downtown Cambridge, devoid of surrounding grass or trees. It is, however, typical of this period and similar to the buildings designed by the noted Henry Hobson Richardson.

At the time when Grace Church was constructed this was apparently still a residential neighborhood, as old photographs show a house across the street where the Phillips Hardware Building is today and houses on this block of Race Street. An earlier Grace Church once stood across the street (Race) somewhere in the middle of the block. It was apparently built sometime around 1865 when the church was established.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rev. Richard C. Hubbard

L.A.W. Bicycle Meets Publication, 1898

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Catherine L. Moore

ORGANIZATION

DATE

April 5, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Route 3, Box 32

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

501 Race Street
Cambridge, Maryland

Add the following to Cathe Moore's information:

The church was completed in 1884.

In addition, change the reference so that the date of the bicycle program is 1896.

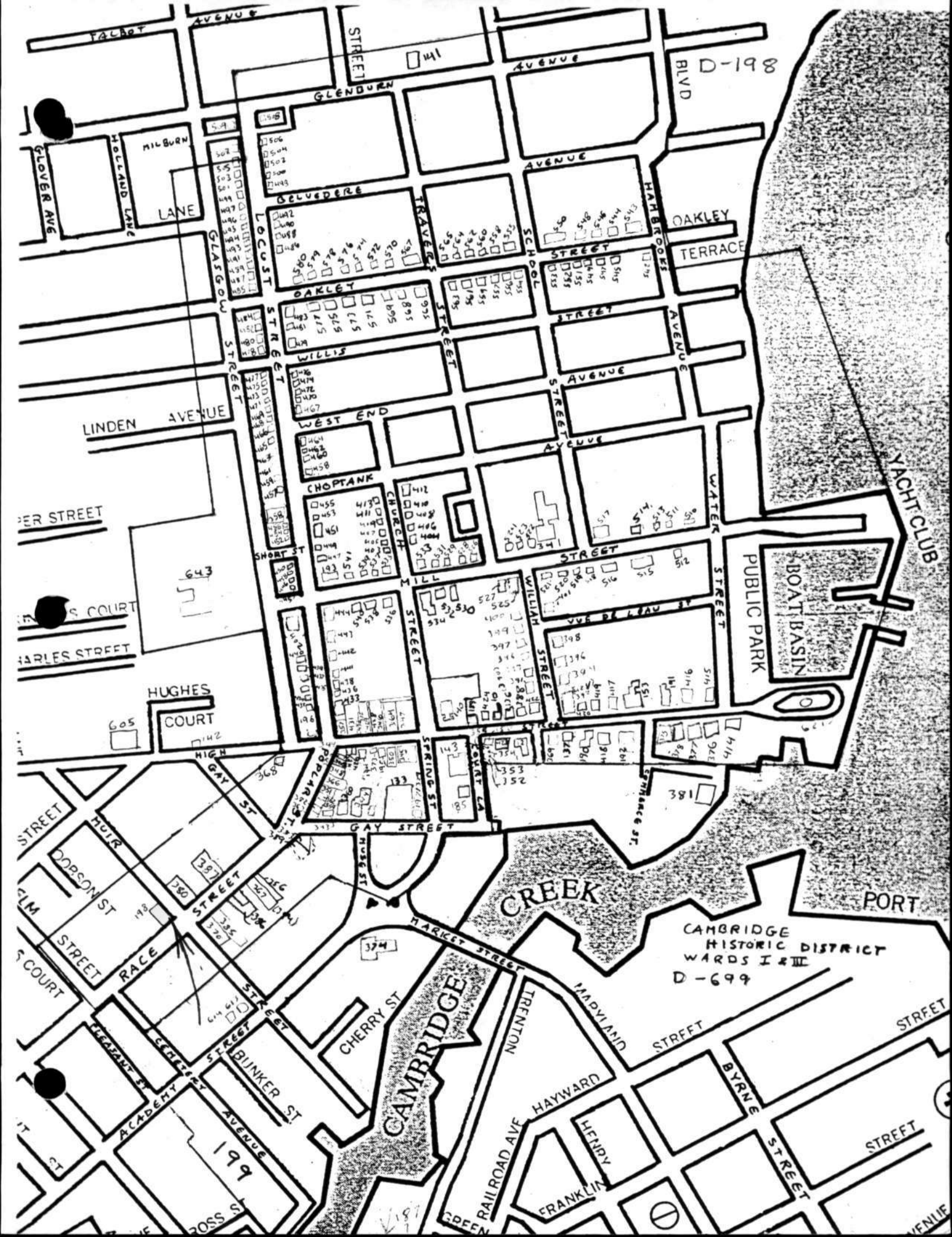
Sources:

Cambridge Democrat and News, November 8, 1884.

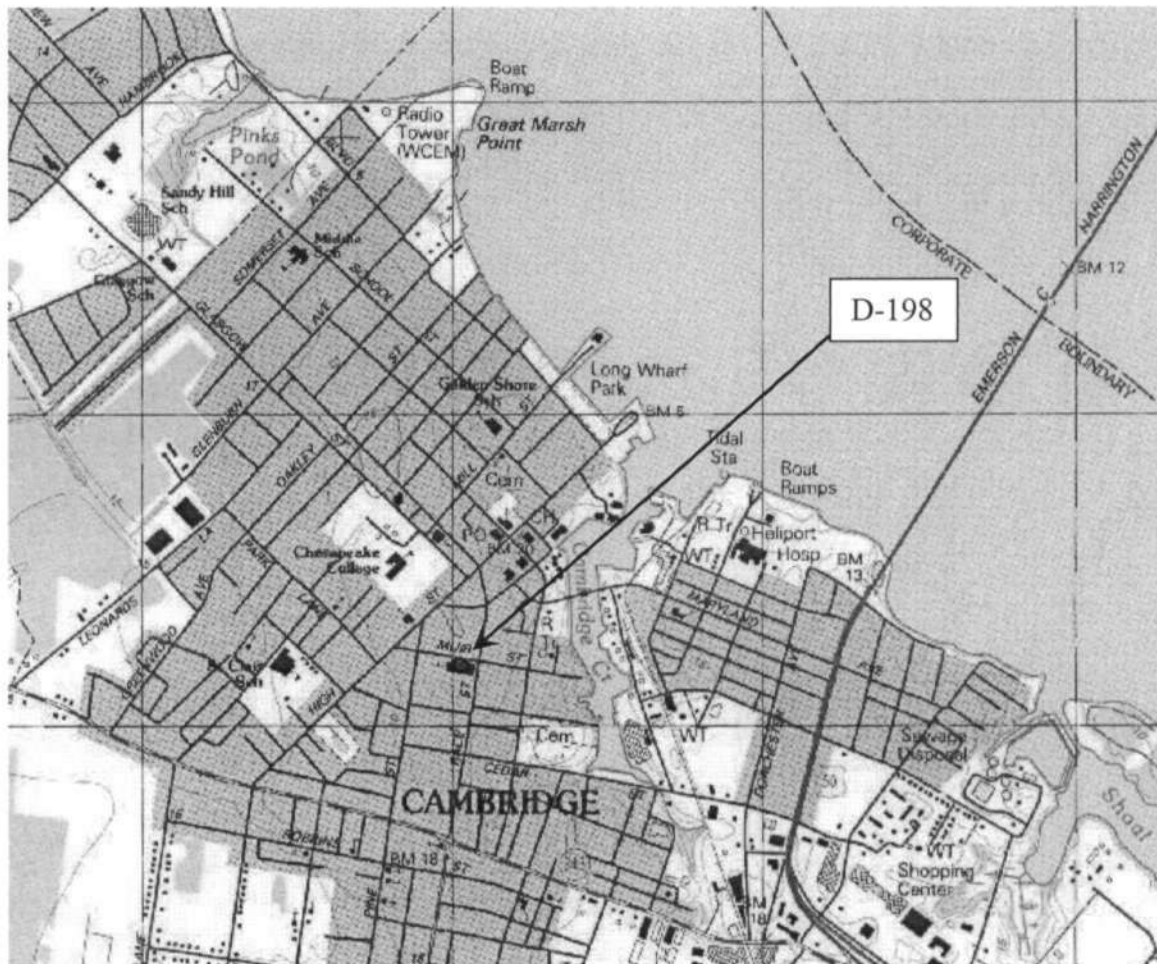
Research by:

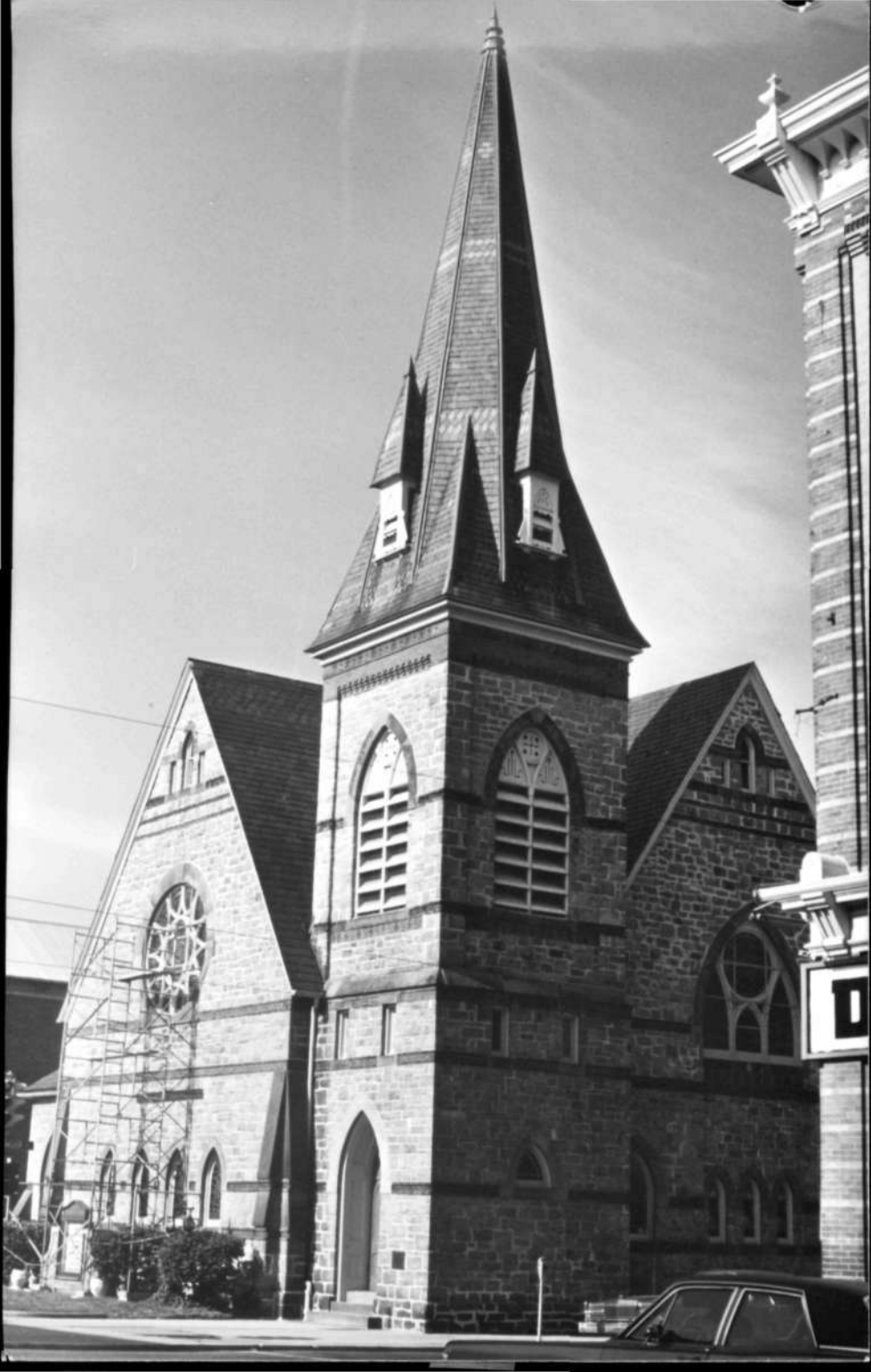
Terrance P. Walbert

1976



D-198
Grace Methodist Church
501 Race St.
Cambridge
Cambridge Quad.
Dorchester Co.





D-198

Grace Methodist
church

48%

501 Race St. . . .

Constitution

date of publication unknown